

THE WORLD BELIEVES DENNY COLT TO BE DEAD DENNY COLT IS IN REALITY THE **SPiRiT**, FAMOUS CRIME FIGHTER, WHO STALKS THE CRIMINALS BEYOND THE LAW...SEEKING NO GLORY, UNHAMPERED BY CONVENTIONS, THE **SPiRiT** SECRETLY AIDS THE POLICE IN SOCIETY'S NEVER-ENDING WAR ON CRIME..ONLY POLICE COMMISSIONER DOLAN KNOWS HIS TRUE IDENTITY.....

THE SPiRiT

BY
Will Eisner



WITH THE SUDDEN FEROCITY OF AN AIR RAID WARNING, THE SIRENS SOMEWHERE WITHIN THE WALLS OF "STATE PEN" PRISON BREAK INTO A NERVE-SHATTERING WAIL...ALL AT ONCE THE GREY WALLS ARE ALIVE WITH MEN...SEARCHLIGHTS PROBE THE NIGHT...IT IS A PRISON BREAK! OGRE GORAN HAS ESCAPED ! ! !



A GUARD SPRINTS ACROSS THE YARD..



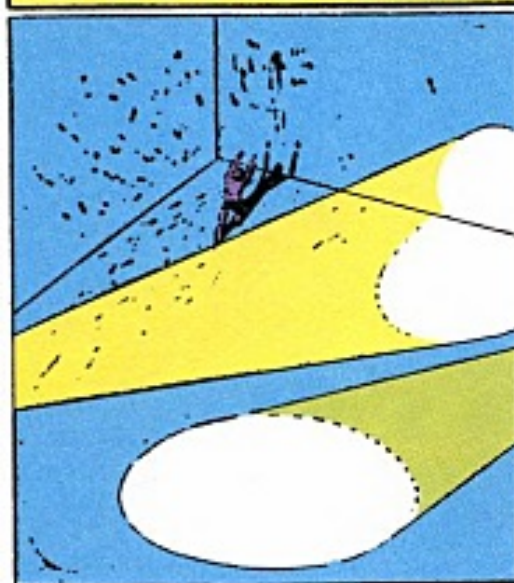
A MOMENT LATER...



THE GUARD TURNS..



DARTING WITH INCREDIBLE SPEED BETWEEN THE BATTERY OF BEAMS, THE FIGURE REACHES THE WALL..



ACROSS
THE
RIVER IN
THE
CHEERFUL
WARMTH
OF A
BIG CITY
APARTMENT.



NOW, MARY, STOP
YOUR FRETTING.
THERE'S NO REASON
FOR GORAN TO
COME HERE... HE
KNOWS YOU
MARRIED ME!



THAT'S
JUST
IT,
DEAR!

I'LL NEVER FORGET HIS EYES
WHEN I FOUND OUT HE WAS
A-A CROOK, AND TOLD HIM
I'D NOT MARRY HIM!



ALL HE SAID WAS, "I
ALWAYS GET WHAT I
WANT, MARY....
ALWAYS!"



NOW
NOW,
HE WON'T
GET
ACROSS
THE RIVER,
DEAR.

THE RADIO JUST
ANNOUNCED
THAT A DRAGNET
IS BEING SPREAD!



NEVER BELIEVE WHAT
YOU HEAR ABOUT ME!
TURN OFF THE
LIGHT..NOW!



OGRE!

THAT'S BETTER...GLAD TO
SEE ME, MARY? I'VE COME
FOR YOU.. TAKE YOU WITH
ME TO SOUTH AMERICA!



NO, OGRE.
I'M MARRIED
NOW!

FOR A MOMENT THE PASSING
BEAM OF AN AUTO IN THE
STREET LIGHTS UP OGRE'S FACE.



I ALWAYS
GET WHAT I
WANT, MARY..
ALWAYS!

NO..NO! PLEASE
STOP! FOR
HEAVEN'S
SAKE!



AS HER HUSBAND SLUMPS LIFE-
LESS TO THE FLOOR, MARY'S FACE
GROWS HARD.. HER EYES GLEAM
WITH SAVAGE FURY.



Y-YOU BEAST! YOU
HORRIBLE
FIEND!

WITH THE SPEED OF SUDDEN MADNESS, MARY LEAPS...SEIZES A LARGE CAN OF ALCOHOL...



HIS ALCOHOL-SOAKED CLOTHES QUICKLY BURST INTO FLAMES... IN A WILD FRENZY HE LEAPS ABOUT FRANTICALLY, SETTING THE ENTIRE HOUSE AFIRE.



DRENCHED WITH THE LIQUID, HE PURSUES HER FROM ROOM TO ROOM.



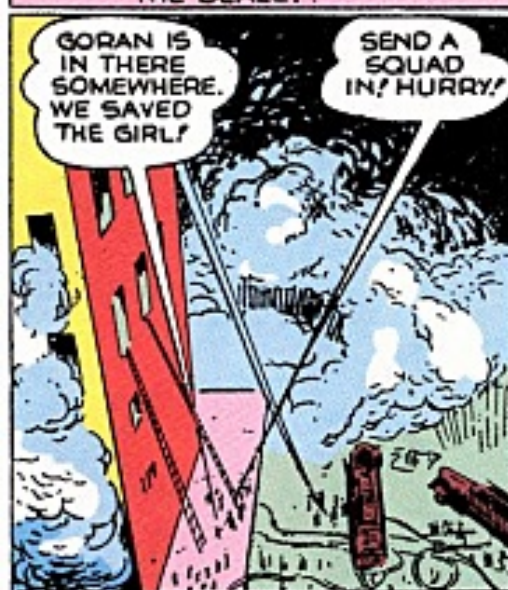
THE HOUSE NOW A BLAZING INFERNO, GORAN REACHES THE BATHROOM... WITH BLISTERED FINGERS HE TURNS THE KNOB OF A SHOWER.



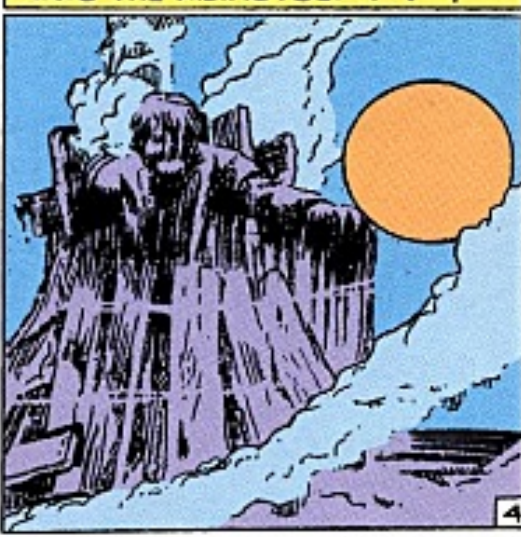
AND FLINGS HIMSELF UNDER ITS EXTINGUISHING STREAM.



THE POLICE AND FIREMEN SOON ARRIVE AND RESCUE MARY FROM THE BLAZE.



BUT AS THE WAIL OF THE ENGINES DIES IN THE DISTANCE, A HORRIBLE CHARRED FORM RISES FROM THE WRECKAGE AND STUMBLES AWAY INTO THE RISING FOG.



SEVERAL DAYS LATER UNDER WILDWOOD CEMETERY WHERE THE **SPIRIT** AND HIS FAITHFUL FRIEND EBONY PLAN AND EXPERIMENT ON NEW WAYS OF COMBATING CRIME.

YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT OGRE GORAN DIDN'T DIE IN THE FIRE, EBONY??

YASSUH, MIST SPIRIT BOSS... 'CAUSE IN DIS DAPUH IT SAYS, THE SHOWER WAS ON WHEN FIREMEN CAME IN!"



NOW AH FIGGERS DAT HE DONE STAND UNDER DE SHOWER AND WAIT TILL DE FIRE DONE DIE OUT, WHEN..

NONSENSE, EBONY. SOMEONE WAS TAKING A BATH!



NO, WAIT! BY GOLLY, EBONY, YOU MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING THERE.... EBONY, YOU'RE DEVELOPING INTO A GENIUS!



ELEMINTRY, MAH DEAR WATSON, ELEMINTRY..



LATER..

MORNIN', MA'M... DAILY PRESS... DOES MRS. MARY COWAN LIVE HERE?

NAW.. USE TO..



WENT OFF YESTERDAY WITH A COUSIN OR SOMEBODY.. FUNNY DUCK.. FACE ALL BANDAGED UP!

BANDAGED? HM.. THANK YOU, MA'M!



THANK YOU VERY MUCH!



AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

YEAH, **SPIRIT**, GORAN USED TO USE POINT CAPE LIGHTHOUSE WHEN HE WAS A BOOTLEGGER... WHY?

THANKS!



OH.. JUST CURIOSITY, DOLAN!



HELLO, DUGAN?? ROLL OUT A SQUAD CAR. I'M GOING OUT TO POINT CAPE.. I'M GOING TO BEAT THE **SPIRIT** TO A CASE THIS TIME!



AT POINT CAPE...IT IS DARK...THE WIND HAS DIED DOWN AND THE MOON HIDES BEHIND A BLACK CLOUD...THE WHISPER OF MUFFLED OARS FLOATS ACROSS THE PLACID WATERS AS A BOAT GLIDES GHOST-LIKE THROUGH THE MIST.



AT THE FOOT OF THE LIGHTHOUSE.



HA HA HA! A VISITOR! THE SPIRIT NO LESS!

HAW HAW YOURSELF! PUT AWAY THAT GUN, OGRE GORAN. THE GAME'S UP!



WHERE IS MARY COWAN?

OH, UPSTAIRS, BEING COMFORTED BY MY WIFE OLGA!



YOU SEE, SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN BEAR TO LOOK AT ME...WHEN MARY GETS USED TO ME, WELL, I'LL KILL OLGA AND MARRY MARY!



A VERY NICE IDEA, BUT I'M GOING TO INTERRUPT YOUR PLANS...COME, MARY!



NAUGHTY NAUGHTY, MR. SPIRIT! HA HA HA!



